

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Drina Simons, D.E.A.F. Coordinator
360/418-4289 (office) or (360) 798-2012 (cell)
drina.simons@wsd.wa.gov

DEAF EDUCATION ADVOCATES FOUNDATION (D.E.A.F.) RECEIVES GRANT FROM COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON

March 19, 2009, Vancouver, WA – Deaf Education Advocates Foundation (D.E.A.F.) received a \$10,000 grant from the **Community Foundation for Southwest Washington**. The grant was made through the small grants program of the Community Foundation's *Community Giving Fund*.

Funds will be used to support the Post High School Program, "Unlocking the Doors of Opportunity" at Washington School for the Deaf (WSD). One of the primary goals of Washington School for the Deaf (WSD) is to help each student to successfully transition to adult life. Through the school's post high school program, students participate in independent living skills classes and are placed in work assignments to learn vocational skills. Grant funds will provide these young people with funds to pay for any tools, equipment or uniforms that they need on the job but are unable to afford. It will also allow the school to purchase a much-needed update to the independent living skills curriculum.

"We are grateful to the Community Foundation for their support," said Rick Hauan, WSD Superintendent. "These funds will help WSD to provide our students and graduates with the best possible opportunities as they prepare for the challenges of living independently and achieving success in their chosen vocation."

Established in 1989, D.E.A.F. is the only organization dedicated to generating funds through private philanthropy to be used for enrichment programs for the deaf and hard of hearing students served at Washington School for the Deaf. "We are pleased to partner with the Community Foundation for Southwest Washington in our efforts," said Courtleigh Guerri, D.E.A.F. Board President. "We greatly appreciate the generosity of the many community members who helped to make this grant possible by contributing to the Community Foundation's *Community Giving Fund*."

For more information on **Deaf Education Advocates Foundation (D.E.A.F.)**, visit our web site: <http://www.deaf-wa.org> or call (360) 418-4289. For more information on **Washington School for the Deaf**, visit <http://www.wsd.wa.gov>

###